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Fifty-third session
Items 72 and 80 of the preliminary list*
GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 29 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the attached statement issued on 28 May 1998 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine in reaction to the nuclear testing conducted by Pakistan on 28 May 1998.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 72 and 80 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volodymyr YEL'CHENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Ukraine to the United Nations

* A/53/50.

ANNEX

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine
issued at Kiev on 28 May 1998

It is the second time during the current month that the hopes of mankind for the non-nuclear world have been seriously challenged. Despite numerous appeals from the world community to refrain from taking steps in response to India's nuclear explosions, Pakistan has conducted its own nuclear tests. Therefore, the spirit of the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has been violated, and a dangerous basis for further proliferation of nuclear weapons on the globe has been created.

As was the case with India, Ukraine condemns this step of Pakistan and calls upon both countries to observe restraint and responsibility in their bilateral relations that will meet the interests of preserving peace and stability in South Asia and in the whole world.

The actions of the two countries have also demonstrated the inefficiency of the existing non-proliferation control mechanisms and the pressing need for their urgent and cardinal improvement. In view of the emergency situation that exists in the South Asia region, Ukraine deems it necessary to consider, as a matter of urgency, the issue of convening a meeting of the United Nations Security Council.